

Remarks

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed March 8, 2006 in which the pending claims were restricted into eleven separate groups.

Applicants hereby respectfully traverse the restriction into eleven groups on the basis that contrary to the Examiner's assertion, it would not place an undue burden on the USPTO to conduct a search of more than a single nucleotide SEQ ID NO: 3 and indeed, instead it places an excessive burden on the Applicants.

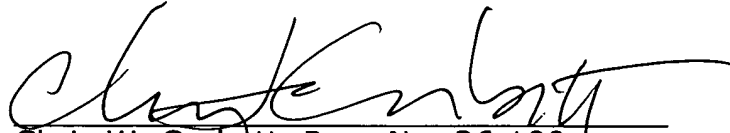
In particular, Applicants respectfully suggest that it would not place an undue burden on the USPTO to search SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, and 8 together, and thus applicants respectfully assert that groups V-VIII constitute a single invention, further considering that groups V-VIII all fall into the same class (536) and subclass (23.1).

In fact, separating SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, and 8 into four separate inventions exerts undue hardship on the Applicants who would then have to expend prohibitive amounts of money to pursue each individual invention in a separate patent application.

Applicants thus respectfully request that Groups V-VIII be rejoined into a single inventive group, thereby combining claims 6-14, 17-18, 21, and new claims 22-23 into a single group.

If Applicants request for joining Groups V-VIII is disapproved, Applicant's elect Group V , i.e. claims 6-14, 17-18, and 21 directed to SEQ ID NO: 2, for further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris W. Corbett", written over a horizontal line.

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